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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 12, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended December 6 totaled an estimated 18.7 billion ton-miles, 1.6 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 49 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 865 billion ton-miles, 0.1 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended December 6 totaled 447,822 cars, 5.1 percent below 1979, but 19.3 percent higher than the preceding holiday week of this year. However, coal loadings were up 4,523 cars, or 4.1 percent over last year. Also, compared with last year, loadings were down 6.3 percent in the East, 1.2 percent in the South, and 6.5 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 16 of the 21 commodity groups declined. All of the groups were up from the preceding holiday week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the holiday week ended November 29 totaled 26,715 cars, down 24.5 percent from the corresponding non-holiday week of 1979, and 47,746 trailers and/or containers, 23.0 percent below last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 48 weeks of the year was 1,540,508 cars, 10.7 percent lower than last year, and 2,797,314 trailers and/or containers, down 8.1 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/06/80:

	Loadings in Week ended December 6, 1980		Change from Corresponding Week 1979			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	32,666	D	2,361	6.7	I	9,569	41.4
Other farm products	6,288	I	75	1.2	I	771	14.0
Metallic ores	32,956	I	776	2.4	I	7,003	27.0
Coal	113,862	I	4,523	4.1	I	14,002	14.0
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,383	D	2,445	16.5	I	2,117	20.6
Nonmetallic minerals	13,344	D	670	4.8	I	2,356	21.4
Grain mill products	16,538	D	2,653	13.8	I	2,414	17.1
Food and kindred products	16,873	D	2,517	13.0	I	2,496	17.4
Primary forest products	20,108	D	1,253	5.9	I	5,651	39.1
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,169	D	1,894	18.8	I	425	5.5
Pulp, paper and allied products	20,780	D	1,308	5.9	I	1,750	9.2
Chemicals and allied products	29,401	I	926	3.3	I	4,261	16.9
Petroleum products	5,798	D	653	10.1	I	1,014	21.2
Stone, clay and glass products	15,310	D	1,786	10.4	I	2,916	23.5
Coke	5,924	I	77	1.3	I	397	7.2
Metals and products	16,327	D	824	4.8	I	1,430	9.6
Motor vehicles and equipment	18,610	D	3,037	14.0	I	3,827	25.9
Waste and scrap materials	12,679	D	867	6.4	I	1,996	18.7
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	9,832	D	2,370	19.4	I	1,310	15.4
All other carloads	39,725	D	5,929	13.0	I	6,680	20.2
LCL traffic	249	D	23	8.5	I	25	11.2
Total Cars Loaded	447,822	D	24,213	5.1	I	72,410	19.3
Corresponding week of 1979	472,035						

	1980	1979	%	Change
Total Cars Loaded (49 weeks)	21,407,164	22,643,012	D	5.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
48 weeks cumulative	846.3 (revised)	845.3	I	0.1
Week ended December 6	18.7	19.0	D	1.6
49 weeks cumulative	865.0	864.3	I	0.1

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